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HANDLING INDICATOR

TO : Department of State

INFO: AMMAN, BEIRUT, TEL AVIV

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ANALYSIS BRANCH

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FROM : Amconsul JERUSALEM

SUBJECT : Sheikh Ja'abari and the Jewish Defense League

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AIR ARMY NAVY OSD

REF :

ISIA NSA CIA USC

UGGESTED DISTRIBUTION

On August 27, Rabbi Meir Kahane and several score members of the Jewish Defense League filtered through roadblocks and appeared in Hebron where they hoped to call on the Mayor, Sheikh Ja'abari, and get his reply to "ugly rumors concerning your personal participation in the Hebron riots of 1929 ... as well as the part you played in the slaughter at Gush Etzion in 1948." Kahane's demonstrators also called for the "repatriation" of the former Jewish residents of Hebron, as others were calling for the repatriation of the Arab villagers of Ikrit and Biram. The demonstrators dispersed peacefully, without seeing the Sheikh, after being warned that the authorities would not tolerate any public disturbances.

POST ROUTING

TO: Action Info. Initials

The prospect of the Rabbi's visit to the municipal building had had Mayor Ja'abari in a high state of excitement for some days. Kahane originally announced his intention to call in a "threatening telegram" in mid-August. On August 24 the Mayor met with local dignitaries and tentatively scheduled a general strike and a march on the Military Governor's headquarters to protest Kahane's threats. The strike and march were cancelled when Ja'abari received assurances that all measures would be taken to keep the JDL demonstrators out of Hebron.

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According to a Jerusalem Post account of the events, "the atmosphere in Hebron was tense, heightened by the presence of the security forces and the flow of Hebronites who flocked to the town hall to voice their support for Ja'abari, and 'sacrifice' themselves for his personal safety." The Post goes on to recount that the Mayor

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For Department Update

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POL:Steward:jmh

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TS:General REASON(S)

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Jerusalem A-114

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did not lose his cool until Rabbi Kahane announced that the JDL would hold a public trial of Ja'abari in Jerusalem. Ja'abari reportedly offered to attend the trial, but as prosecutor.

The Mayor's feelings were undoubtedly assuaged when General Dayan, West Bank Military Governor Vardi, and the Governor of the Hebron district called at the Sheikh's summer house in the afternoon of the 27th. General Dayan denounced the JDL demonstration as "shameful", reassured the Arab population, and emphasized that the authorities were satisfied with their relations with Mayor Ja'abari.

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